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machine is activated, one or more random numbers are generated in the slot machine's microprocessor (15) to determine which symbols are to be displayed in each of the symbol display boxes. If a suitable winning combination is not formed with the initial symbols, the player is given opportunities to select up to all of the symbol display boxes for replacement. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, 33 and 35 so that the pending claims now read as follows:

- Sub E17 1. (Four Times Amended) A method of operating an electronic gaming apparatus having a plurality of symbols arrayed in separate boxes of multiple symbol columns and rows on its monitor comprising the steps of:
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- selecting initial symbols to be arrayed in said separate boxes of said multiple symbol columns and rows;
  - displaying the initial symbols selected in an array of separate boxes of multiple symbol columns and rows on said monitor;
  - allowing the player to designate a chosen number, from none to all, of said initial displayed symbols for replacement;
  - selecting said chosen number of replacement symbols;
  - replacing said chosen number of initial symbols on said monitor with replacement symbols;
  - determining whether said replacement symbols and any remaining initial symbols arrayed in said separate boxes of said multiple symbol columns and rows constitute a winning combination; and,
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- 1